

In this issue:

High frequency at Chopard
Postcards from Basel
Christophe Claret gets X-TREM

Q
P



Forty Years of the Mighty Oak
Steel Works

UK £6.50, USA \$10.99
ISSN 1479-4837
05>
9 771479 483021
www.qp magazine.com

auctions

Asian collectors look back to China, AP's Royal Oak anniversary creates a stir and QP gives you a sneak peak of what will be on offer at the upcoming George Daniels auction. **Simon de Burton**

Time for charity

The preservation of the marine world seems to be the favoured charitable crusade among watch brands of late, which is why Jaeger-LeCoultre offered the Prototype No. One of its recently-launched Deep Sea Vintage Chronograph in an online auction that ran on the firm's web site in March. The three-day sale ended with a winning bid of £9,300 for the watch (the production version of which costs £7,450), all of which will be donated to the Puerto-Princesa subterranean river national park that has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1999. In the next issue of *QP*, meanwhile, we'll be able to tell you the price realised for a unique, green-dialled Girard-Perregaux Sea Hawk which was made especially for Christie's third annual 'Green Auction' held on 11 April. All the money from the sale of the watch will go to an environmental charity that deals mainly with water conservation projects.



1. The unique Prototype No. One Deep Sea Vintage Chronograph, recently auctioned online in aid of charity for a winning bid of £9,300. 2. The dial colour on the Girard-Perregaux Sea Hawk is a reference to Christie's 'Green Auction' held on 11 April, with proceeds going to environmental charities.



Charles Tearle

Tearle on the move...

After three years with Antiquorum in the US and prior to recently being made head of the firm's Asian division, Charles Tearle has suddenly announced his departure from the house in order to pursue a new venture. As this issue of *QP* went to press, the highly experienced auction specialist had just announced that his new position will be at Sotheby's Hong Kong – little surprise as Tearle, 38, has been immersed in the world of watches since the age of 16 when he became an assistant at Somlo in London. After 12 years he left to travel the world before joining Bonhams, for which he set up the US watch department prior to jumping ship to Antiquorum in 2008.



3. A yellow-gold chronograph Space Travellers' watch with Daniels independent double-wheel escapement, circa 1982. Estimate £400,000-600,000. 4. The yellow-gold Grand Complication watch featuring a one-minute tourbillon with Daniels slim co-axial escapement, circa 1987. Estimate £500,000-800,000. 5. A fine Breguet et Filis no.3225 replica weight-driven three wheel skeleton timepiece by George Daniels. Estimate £60,000-80,000.

Daniels details emerge

Further to our initial 'scoop' on the sale of the personal clock and watch collection of the master horologist the late Dr George Daniels (see QP52), we can now tell you that the auction, due to take place at Sotheby's in November, is likely to yield a staggering £5 million. *QP* will, of course, carry a comprehensive preview in the issue published immediately before the sale, but it will whet your appetite to learn that among the star lots will be one of the two Space Traveller's watches (estimate £600,000) and the Grand Complication watch of 1987, which could realise up to £800,000. There will also be four examples of the Millennium wristwatch (including a prototype), as well as the replica of a 19th-century Breguet weight-driven skeleton clock which Dr Daniels made to such a level of accuracy that Maison Breguet awarded it an official certificate of authenticity. The estimate for that is a modest £60,000-90,000.

Dreweatts

22 February, Donnington Priory

The remarkable sale of the working horological library of Charles Allix, once the UK's leading antique watch dealer, attracted strong interest when it was offered in this 138-lot auction. Highlights included several fascinating documents relating to John Harrison of longitude fame. A selection of the manuscripts were bought by the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers and will now reside in the Company's London museum.

Among the most interesting was a two-and-a-half page manuscript written by a secretary representing a draft of a speech Harrison intended to put to Members of Parliament and the longitude board in order to argue his case for receiving the £20,000 prize for creating an accurate marine chronometer. Entitled *The Further Case of Mr Harrison*, the document fetched £38,000 against a £10,000 high estimate, while Harrison's notes for a petition to Parliament – including corrections in his own hand – drew £36,000.

A mathematical table setting out the proportions for finding the miles corresponding to a degree of longitude in any latitude sold for £24,000, while other items from the collection ranged from a bust of Breguet to a rare copy of a book about the Knibb family of clockmakers. One of just 1,000 printed, it sold for £700.



6. *The Further Case of Mr Harrison*, a manuscript written by a secretary detailing a draft of a speech put to Members of Parliament. £38,000. 7a & 7b. *The Case of Mr John Harrison*, a petition to Parliament dating from 1773. £12,000. 8. *The Proportion For Finding the Miles Corresponding to a Degree of Longitude in Any Latitude...*, 1776. £24,000. 9. A book published in 1964 entitled *The Knibb Family: Clockmakers* by Ronald A. Lee, number 16 of 1,000 copies. £700.

Watches of Knightsbridge

10 March, London

Newcomer Watches of Knightsbridge seems to be making good progress following its inaugural sale last year. The outfit's latest auction of 266 lots was highlighted by a highly collectable Rolex Submariner ref. 6200 from 1953 with '3,6,9' dial in original, well patinated condition, which drew £51,072. An extremely early and very pretty Longines single-button wrist chronograph from 1913 seemed remarkably good value at £5,472, while the resurgence of the Zenith brand might well have helped a 1971 El Primero (with rare, blue dial) to draw £3,891 against an estimate of £2,000-2,500. A 1940s Panerai diver's compass with a badly clouded cover fetched £2,675.

auctions



10. The Rolex 'Holy Grail' Submariner with Explorer-type dial, circa 1953. £51,072. 11. A 1920s Longines Calibre 13.33Z single button chronograph. £5,472. 12. An original 1971 Zenith El Primero Chronograph. £3,891. 13. Ultra-rare original Panerai Italian Navy diver's compass with a badly clouded cover. £2,675.